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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant: §
PAUL L. POOL §
WILLIAM H. GOWAN §
§
Filed: OF EVEN DATE § Art Unit: 1306
§
Serial No. UNKNOWN § Examiner: Kuhns, A.
§
For: PROTECTION OF PIPELINE §
JOINT CONNECTIONS §
§
§ Attorney Docket No.: D98020US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Sub B1> ✓ 17. (AMENDED) A[n apparatus] cover for protecting exposed pipeline joint[s] sections on weight coated offshore underwater pipelines comprising:

a pliable cover material overlapping adjacent end portions of the weight coat, completely enclosing the exposed pipe joint section, and sealed in place forming an annular space around the pipe;

said annular space between the exposed pipeline and the cover material filled with a joint filling material.

18. (AMENDED) The [apparatus] cover of claim 17 wherein the joint filling material is a high density open celled polyurethane foam, formed by reacting polyurethane chemicals inside the cover material.

Sub B2> 19. The [apparatus] cover of claim 17 wherein the pliable cover material is formed from polyethylene.

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Please add claims 20-24.

20. The cover of claim 17, wherein said cover material includes an opening formed for injecting the joint filling material into said annular space.

21. The cover of claim 20, wherein the joint filling material is an open celled polyurethane foam capable of absorbing moisture to increase ballast of the pipeline.